

## They Deserve Our Best

Every time I look at the flag I think of the soldiers that have fought for our freedom all over the world. Their bravery is represented to me in three distinct ways. It shows me that they were there, ready to protect me if anything terrible should happen. It shows me that they put their lives on the line for me. It shows that they cared enough to allow me freedoms that should never be taken for granted. For these reasons, we need to stand by our veterans.

First, in times of need they were there. When Great Britain failed to give us freedom, they were there. When Pearl Harbor was bombed, they were there. When the beaches of Normandy needed ally support, they were there. When the Korean War broke out, they were there. When the World Trade Centers were destroyed, they were there. When we needed them the most, they were there. Let us now be there for the veterans, when they need us the most.

Additionally, our veterans marched into battle without hesitation. They knew the risks involved with their jobs. They understood their actions could cost them their lives and yet they still fought on. They displayed a sense of duty to their country. Many of our veterans lost friends during battle. Many came home and were never the same

because of the things they had seen during war. Their level of honor and commitment deserves our honor and commitment. They persevered through adverse times and anything less than us honoring them would be wrong.

Finally, the work of our veterans allows me to enjoy freedoms not found in a lot of places in the world. We cannot take for granted things such as the freedom of speech or the freedom to practice any religion of our choosing. Our veterans help ensure equal rights to all. They fought for the rights for our country to live in a democratic society. The simple practice of voting for our country's leaders is a result of our veteran's efforts in keeping our freedoms alive. Samuel Adams once said, "The truth is, all might be free if they valued freedom, and defended it as they ought." Surely, our veterans demonstrated their value of freedom. Should we not defend the defenders?

In conclusion, we owe it to the men and women who have sacrificed much for the freedoms we take for granted. They deserved to be honored due to their commitment to protect us, their willingness to die for their country and their battles for our freedoms. We owe it to them to stand by them for the rest of their lives, because without them, we wouldn't be enjoying our lives.